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Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/960,727

Applicant(s)

KAMBE ET AL.

Examiner

HOEY, BETSEY

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 17 March 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach, disclose, or fairly suggest an apparatus for controlling resistivity of ultra pure water, comprising a mixed gas supply, housing, gas permeable membrane, ultra pure water path, and mixed gas path, having the specific arrangement and configuration recited in the claim, wherein the mixed gas supply is a supply of gas selected from the specific group recited in the claim, and being capable of supplying carbon dioxide or ammonia to the untreated ultra pure water via the gas permeable at the recited concentration. It is submitted that the claim is not obvious over the closest prior art of record, Katou et al., because Katou et al. does not suggest a mixed gas supply, as defined in the claim and in the specification on pages 5 and 14.

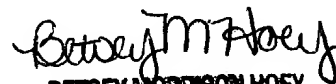
Claims 2-14 and 19 allowed because the prior art of record fails to teach, disclose, or fairly suggest an apparatus for controlling resistivity of ultra pure water, comprising a mixed gas supply, a membrane capable of supplying carbon dioxide or ammonia to the untreated ultra pure water at the specific recited concentration, and a unit which produces ultra pure water in the specific manner recited in claim 2. It is submitted that the claim is not obvious over the closest prior art of record, Katou et al., because Katou et al. does not suggest a mixed gas supply, as defined in the claim and in the specification on pages 5 and 14.

Claims 15-18 are allowed for the reasons set forth in the previous Office Action.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Betsey Hoey whose telephone number is **(571) 272-1158**. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The examiner's supervisor, Mr. Blaine Copenheaver, may be reached at (571) 272-1156. Any inquiry of general nature may be directed to the Group receptionist at (571) 272-0987. The centralized fax number for the Group is (703) 872-9306. The examiner Rightfax number is (571) 273-1158.



BETSEY MORRISON HOEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

April 2, 2004